

The Aldersgate Press

Sept 2020 • Vol 23 • www.AldersgatePA.org
• A Reconciling Congregation, open to all



DVDs of our online service!
See page 2!

SERVING YOUR CHURCH

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Aldersgate Still Closed

Aldersgate continues to remain closed but we will continue our online activities. **There will be no Salmon Dinner this year.** You can find links to our online materials from our website, such as our [Online Letters of Hope](#) sent out by Roger.

The Aldersgate [Online Worship Experience](#) can also be accessed from the website or Rev. Roger's twice weekly emails.

Words with Rev. Roger



CHURCH *in this era*

As we are all aware, the pandemic has changed much of our lives in many, many ways. We realize, even as parts of our life “reopen,” other parts are forever changed. Some things will be a new normal and some things will have disappeared for good.

Many national church leaders describe the moment Shelter-in-Place was instituted as a moment when the church pivoted. It turned from its long-directed path and moved toward a new uncharted direction. The way of the church has and will change going forward.

The truth is, the church was already in need of a significant change. Church leaders have been talking about this for decades. The pandemic has only hastened its arrival and magnified its change of direction.

As we move forward, it is clear church leadership will be thinking and processing what the church will be looking like in the years ahead.

My thought is that the church will be more de-centralized and more diverse in its manifestations. It will be a hybrid of online experience and in-person experience. It will be more theologically diverse reflecting the changing ethos of millennials and Gen-Z.

For us, a possible model may be one of “Building Community and Spirituality in this New Era.” We will be forming communities within the community of the church where people find heart-to-heart connections. These communities will be like small groups but focused around like interests such as singing (choir), cooking, intellectual exploration, health and wellness etc... It is somewhat what the Center for Spiritual Life was trying to achieve.

See ROGER, continued page 2

Church News

ROGER – continued

Theologically, the church will continue to be open minded. Theology will be less about belief and doctrine but more of a process where we continually shape our theology by our exploration into what we are constructively passionate about. Our compassion and heart will lead the direction and the explorative process will shape our thinking. This will ultimately lead us to the Spirit of Christ.

Over the next year or so, we will begin to build this model as we seek to understand what “church” looks like into the era ahead of us. Despite the hardships of these times, in some ways it could be hopeful and encouraging as we seek a new way of being the church.

This pandemic has changed much and some of the change may turn out for the best. The church has an opportunity to change and to live into this new era.

Let us be open to the Spirit of change that is guiding us along the way.

Roger

DVD Players Available!

Aldersgate has several very simple and basic DVD players with it's own screen, so you can view the Online Worship Experience (OWE) on a disk, versus going online. The church can mail the DVD disk out each week so you can view them.

You may borrow the DVD players for as long as you wish. This system of viewing online worship has been used and tested by Wesley UMC (San Jose). Thank you to Rev. Keith Inouye and Wesley UMC for sharing!

Please contact Rev. Roger if you are interested in this system.

Salmon Dinner

As you all know, we have canceled our Salmon Dinner for this year. Many have shared how they will miss the delicious dinner and the fellowship of friends but at the same time understand the circumstances. All of us think of the many event in the community that have been cancelled due to the pandemic. We keep all our thoughts and prayers for these organizations and individuals as we all continue to do our best to live into this current reality.

Some have given a special donation in honor of our Salmon Dinner event. Even though Aldersgate has been doing well financially through this pandemic, the special donation is much appreciated. There is still much uncertainty that lies ahead for all of us and these gifts serve to help steady the ship in these choppy seas.

So if you feel so moved, Aldersgate would welcome any special donation in lieu of the Salmon dinner.

OR/AND – We encourage you to give to one of the local food banks or charities to help those truly in need.

Again, we are grateful for you, our membership and friends and your generous Spirit!



Learning on the Job While Shooting a Forest Fire

by Brad Shirakawa



Brad Shirakawa / Reno Gazette Journal

I shot a major forest fire once, in a remote Nevada forest in 1989, for the *Reno Gazette Journal*. I was the intern and was the first photographer they sent to the fire. I was shocked they did that. I had a heck of a time just finding the fire, although I could see the plume of smoke.

The Plumas Fire didn't burn near any roads, nor could I find a direct line of roads to get there, which was frustrating. I zigged and zagged and finally found a staging area for the fire department.. No GPS/internet back then, so I was on my own.

I asked the fire guys if I could park there, and they said "yes, but if the winds change, your car (the company car) might burn up." GREAT. I'M THE INTERN. THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN TO ME.

I trudged up some mountain side to find the fire. I was shocked to see the fireguys wearing nothing but bandanas. I figured they would all have 'scuba' like tanks, to breathe from. I knew nothing of the reality of fire fighting.

I never did get near the flames, they were too far. I would have to walk down the mountain, then walk back up another, to get close. I decided it wasn't worth doing. And I didn't have the time.

I finally got my shot and was glad to leave, so I didn't have to breathe smoke anymore (no photo or video can describe how you don't want to breath when you're that close to it).

When I got to the company car, a fabulous Geo Metro.... the danged car wouldn't start! ARE YOU KIDDING!?? The battery died, I think.

I'm going to miss my deadline, and the car might burn up. I'M THE INTERN. THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN TO ME.

Somehow I wrangled a land line call back to the office, and the office secretary picked me up about 2-3 hours later, in the other company Geo Metro. I learned that getting the shot was just half of the job. The next day, they sent somebody else to shoot.

Special Gifts!

From August 19, 2020 to
Sept 14, 2020

**In memory of
Dr. Makoto Ueda**
M/M Chris Robinson

**In memory of
Kimi Tsukushi**
Tami Oshima

**In Appreciation of
Herb and Mimi**
Lynda Elliot

No Salmon Dinner
Ben Hashiba &
Joy Nakamura

Paypal Donations

Chris Takimoto
Herb Gong
Judy Wong
Roger Morimoto
Ed Nieda
Patricia Obayashi
Brynn Saito
Joan Haratani
Lloyd Wake
Daniel Yasukawa
Sharon Robinson
Carol Uyeno

General donations and pledges

Itano Leslie and
Jerry Chang
Kim David & Jin Young
Nakamura David
Nakamura Jim
Narimatsu Glen & Gayle
Oshima Tami
Sakuma Paul
Shibuya Dr. Mare & Lily
Shizuru Jeanne &
Nelson David
Wong Judy
Wong Russell
Yamasaki Sachiyo
Yasaki Tokiko